

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Claims 1-29 (Canceled).

30. (New) A power management system comprising:

a server connected to a first network; and

a plurality of client computers connected to the server via a second network,

wherein the server comprises:

means for defining groups among the plurality of client computers;

means for determining a power shift time period for each of the client computer

groups based on power load information for an external power source sent by a power company;

means for determining power source information for each of the client computer

groups, the power source information including first information representing which of the external power source and a secondary power source is to be used by the group of client computers, and second information representing the power shift time period for the group of client computers; and

means for transmitting power source information to each of the client computer groups, and

wherein each of the plurality of client computers comprises:

means for receiving power source information transmitted from the server;

means for selecting one of the external power source and the secondary power source based on received first information; and

means for determining a time for using the selected one of the external power source and the secondary power source based on received second information,

wherein the means for selecting controls supply of power from the external power source or the secondary power source based on the determined time.

31. (New) A power management system according to claim 30, wherein the server is

connected to the power company via the first network and the power load information is sent from the power company.

32. (New) A power supply control method in a power management system which comprises a server connected to a first network and a plurality of client computers connected to the server via a second network, the method comprising:

the server defining groups among the plurality of client computers;

the server determining a power shift time period for each of the client computer groups based on power load information for an external power source sent by a power company;

the server determining power source information for each of the client computer groups, the power source information including first information representing which of the external power source and a secondary power source is to be used by the group of client computers, and second information representing the power shift time period for the group of client computers;

the server transmitting the power source information to each of the client computer groups;

each of the client computers receiving power source information transmitted from the server;

each of the client computers selecting one of the external power source and a secondary power source based on the received first information; and

each of the client computers determining a time for using the selected one of the external power source and the secondary power source based on the received second information; and

each of the client computers controlling supply of power from the external power source or the secondary power source based on the determined time.

33. (New) A server used in a power management system, comprising:

means for defining groups among a plurality of client computers;

means for determining a power shift time period for each of the client computer groups based on power load information for an external power source sent by a power company;

means for determining power source information for each of the client computer groups, the power source information including first information representing which of the external power source and a secondary power source is to be used by the group of client computers, and second information representing the power shift time period for the group of client computers; and

means for transmitting power source information to each of the client computer groups.